and (b) No, Sir. So, far, contracts covering 1120Km have been awarded.

(c) Do not arise.

Vallarpadam Trans-shipment Port HUB

2203. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Vallarpadam (Cochin) Trans shipment Port/Hub would become fully operational;

(b) how much of construction work of Vallarpadam trans-shipment Port is complete till date; and

(c) whether all our ships from the east coast and west ports go to Vallarpadam trans-shipment hub carrying cargo and would all the cargos be trans-shiped from this hub to and fro?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per the License Agreement signed by Cochin Port Trust with the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) operator, M/s India Gateway Terminal Private Limited, the BOT operator is obligated to commence commercial operations of Phase-I of the International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT) not later than twenty four (24) months from the date of commencement of construction works.

(b) The construction work for the ICTT Project has not commenced.

(c) Cochin Port has locational advantages as it is located in close proximity to the mainline 'East-West' shipping route. With the development of an International container trans-shipment terminal it is expected to handle container cargo, both international as well as Indian origin/bound cargo. However, inter-port movement of ships including to ICTT at Cochin Port is dependent primarily on operational economics.

Construction of Gwalior Nagar By Pass

†2204. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Gwalior Nagar by pass at National Highway No. 3: and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.